

Clam
Clams
 “Slang for dollars. As in "That'll be fifty clams, please." Some Native Americans used clams as a currency.”

Clam
Happy as a clam
 “What makes them so happy? A clam's foot is also its tongue.”

Clam
To clam up
 “To get tight lipped. Saying nothing. Clams, it must be said, are not talkative when they're open, either.”

Tiger
Have a tiger by its tail
 “Is it better to have it by the tail than to catch it by the toe (eeny meeny miny moe)?”

Tiger
Eye of the tiger
 “One of the body parts most coveted, at least metaphorically, by macho guys. Unfortunately tiger populations have plummeted about 97% in the past century, leaving precious few of their organs to spare.”

Tiger
Paper tiger
 “Easily shredded by real tigers.”



Clam
Happy as a clam
 “The longer version is 'happy as a clam in mud at high tide.' Low tide can bring the danger of pesky clam eaters.”

Cow
Beef up
 “To strengthen. In India, where I live, the newspapers frequently use this quaint English expression, as in 'security has been beefed up' although eating beef is such a contentious issue and often leads to communal violence. I don't think anyone has really figured out the connection!”



Cow
Sacred cow
 “Something that must not be treated with disrespect.”

Cow
Cash cow
 “A cash cow must be kind of like an ATM.”

Cow
Holy cow!
 “Nice swearing.”

Chicken
Smart as a chicken's fart
 “I grew up with a farm boy who said that.”

Chicken
Don't count your chickens before they're hatched
 “Optimism can be disappointing.”

Chicken
Chicken out
 “When humans evade large predators, they are agile, but when chickens do it they are scared and contemptible?”

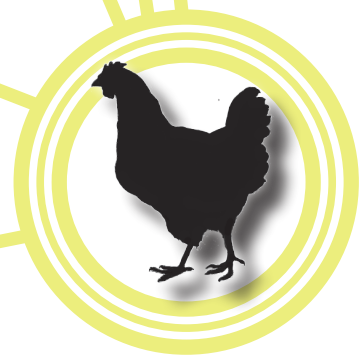


Cow
Raining like a cow pissing on a flat rock
 “If you guessed 'hard rain,' you'd be right. Some familiarity with cow pissing makes this more vivid.”

Chicken
Chicken-shit
 “A guaranofic appellation for someone who's fearful.”

Cow
'til the cows come home
 “Despite domesticated milking cows returning home rather regularly (if they leave the barn), this refers to something that will go on for ages.”

Chicken
Chick
 “In the mid-19th century young women in the U.S. became known as 'birds,' but eventually it seems that Americans settled on the chicken.”



Halcyon
Halcyon days
 “'Halcyon' is another name for a tropical kingfisher with bright plumage. Yet this name has become synonymous in English with ideal past, glory days.”

